

Richardson House
~~Richardson~~ Croaker,
~~James City County~~
James City County
Virginia

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HABS No. VA 366

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office

RICHARDSON HOUSE
Croaker, James City Co., Va.

Owner: Unknown

Date: 18th century

Builder: Unknown

Condition: ruinous

Description: The house is of frame construction above a brick basement which is laid in Flemish bond. It is a story and a half high with gable roof and a double end chimney. At either side of the latter is a closet, covered by a shed roof. The front closet forms an important feature of the main elevation as it increases the length and lessens the abruptness of the design. The elevation is of three bays, the right, or westernmost being occupied by the door. At the left are two nine over nine light windows, with paneled shutters which though old do not seem to be original. On the roof are three gabled dormers of four over four sashes. The east end has a projecting chimney with two sets of weatherings. The sides of it are concealed in the lower section by the leanto closets. In the south side of the gable is one four over four light window.

The plan consists of a broad hall at the west side with two rooms toward the east, the front room being slightly larger than the rear. The fireplaces in each are near the center corner and are flat, not diagonal. In this wall also are the doors to the closets. The same plan is followed upstairs.

The interior trim is of considerable interest. The feature is the fine trellis balustrade of the stair, in the so called Chinese-Chippendale style. This consisted of four sections, each of which was one design. The main panel is 9'-3" and is based on a system of intersecting diagonals, which repeats with simplifications in the other panels. The dado in the hall is sheathed with beaded joints and a moulded handrail. The doors to the rooms are six panel with bead and bevel panels. The only mantel is in the front room and has a moulded shelf above a broad architrave surround.

4/29/41

W. Waterman